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SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/RSA (MSKARDON), AF/E (MWALSH), IO/PSC  
(TKHAMBATTA)

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SUBJECT: AUSTRIA WILL ISSUE UNSC STATEMENT SUPPORTING  
AMISOM, PLEDGES FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH EU

REF: STATE 24665

¶1. Poloff delivered reftel demarche March 20 to Peter Huber, MFA Head of International Organizations. Huber replied that the GOA would make a statement in support of AMISOM at the March 20 UNSC meeting on Somalia, as well as endorse the EU statement on the issue.

¶2. Huber said the GOA supports Somalia through the EU, which has so far committed 40 million euros for AMISOM and is open, "in principle," to contributing through the African Peace Facility. He added that the EU also contributes to the UNDP Rule of Law and Security program, and has committed 4 million euros to support Somalia's transitional government. On general development, the GOA supports Somalia through the EU's 2008-2013 development program for Somalia, which projects to spend 215 million euros in priority sectors such as good governance, security, education, and economic development. Poloff will report further developments via septel.  
KILNER